



Foggy Bottom News

April 2004

Published by the citizens of Foggy Bottom and the West End

Volume 46, No. 6

Watergate— The Saga Continues

By Ron Cocomo

In the latest episode, the Zoning Commission concluded its hearing on the Planned Unit Development amendment application to permit the Watergate Hotel to be converted to residential use. The record will remain open until April 29, 2004.

The Delaware Court of the Chancery ruled that the membership vote by Watergate East was invalid and ordered a new vote. That vote will be held at the annual membership meeting on April 12.

The bottom line has been buried at Watergate in pursuit of polemics. A debating club atmosphere has taken hold, in which winning points is all that matters and extraneous issues are continually added to the mix in order to further that end.

In actuality, the issue before our community is now very clear. The four-star Watergate Hotel, as we know it, soon will be, sadly, a thing of the past. The owners of the hotel, having lost money for many years, are determined to sell their property.

Zoning Commission Has "No Choice"

It now appears all but certain that the Zoning Commission will approve the application to convert the hotel to residential use. They will do so because, under the law and their own guidelines, they have no choice. Moreover, the Mayor's agenda is to increase the number of high-end residents in the District; his government agencies implement that agenda.

The hotel and the proposed developer are simply asking to do with their property what three other Watergate Cooperative buildings have done with their own. The Foggy Bottom Association Board voted to support this residential conversion because more taxpaying residents are exactly what is needed in Foggy Bottom. A new residential cooperative will add taxpayers and stability to our neighborhood.

Alternative Is Undesirable

Further, in the very unlikely event that the Zoning Commission denies the conversion application, the only alternative is highly undesirable. The reality is that because of its location, size and, simply, the over-supply of new luxury hotels in the District, any successor hotel at the Watergate will be a low-end operation. Such a hotel will be the high bidder in any purchase, because it will budget no money to improve the property and it will survive on tour groups. The quality of life in Foggy Bottom will not be improved by lines of tour buses and a hotel property in decline, awaiting who knows what future ownership.

Many may not like the stark alternatives at the Watergate, but not liking reality will not change it. We will be far better off with a first-class residential cooperative than with a second-rate tourist hotel.

Shine On, Shine On

By Ron Cocomo

Well, color me embarrassed. I certainly should have known better. In the last issue of the FBNews, I thanked employees of the District Department of Transportation for a prompt and intelligent response to community outrage over the new stadium-intensity streetlights on residential Virginia Avenue.

I was premature in that praise.

When first approached, DDOT representatives quickly offered a remedial plan complete with a timetable. They have delivered on virtually none of their promises. It is bad enough to live in the highest-taxed jurisdiction in the Nation, but to have those tax dollars used to torture you is not a happy condition.

The latest I have heard from DDOT—other than repeated promises to correct the problem it so unnecessarily created—was a request for me to join a panel to study the problem citywide. No study is required here. Just lower the intensity of the lights. There was no call for and, in fact, no reason at all to increase that intensity in the first place.

We will keep trying.

Update

Hughes Mews House Okayed by HPRB

The Historic Preservation Review Board has approved by a vote of 6-1 the proposed building on a small lot in the alley behind 935 26th Street, near Queen Anne's Lane and the historic Hughes Mews homes.

The three-story house was signed off on after the

Update, to page 2

City Administrator To Speak at FBA Meeting

Robert C. Bobb, the City Administrator, will be the featured speaker at the March 29 Foggy Bottom Association meeting, scheduled for the Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 7:30 p.m.

Appointed to the position just last year to succeed John Koskinen, Mr. Bobb has taken on a series of important tasks, most recently serving as head city administration official in the current water-lead investigation. According to columnist Tom Sherwood, he is also dealing with "the vexing problem of Greater Southeast Hospital" and the possible repeal by the Congress of the city's gun ban.

Prior to his appointment here in D.C., Mr. Bobb had 25 years of executive management experience, during which he served as City Manager of Oakland, California, Richmond, Virginia, Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Santa Ana, California. He earned degrees from Louisiana's Grambling State and Western Michigan universities, and attended the state and local government executives program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He is known for his expertise in public finance, economic development, public safety and community-based government.

The FBA welcomes the appearance of Mr. Bobb, essentially the No. 2 official in the city. It is especially exciting for us to hear him, because he has not had the opportunity since taking office to appear before citizens' associations such as the FBA. Don't miss what he has to tell us about the D.C. Executive Branch and its hopes and plans for Foggy Bottom/West End.

FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

All Residents Welcome

Guest Speaker:

Robert C. Bobb

City Administrator

Monday, March 29, 2004

The Melrose Hotel

2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

7:30 p.m.

(Next meeting: Monday, April 26, 2004)

Update, from page 1

builder agreed to lower it and reduce the size and height of a rooftop penthouse. At earlier hearings HPRB members questioned the presence of the rooftop penthouse, usually used only to house mechanical equipment on commercial buildings. At the latest hearing they declined to disapprove its architectural incompatibility with the Queen Anne's houses, citing them as not contributing to the historic district.

The builder must go before the Board of Zoning Adjustment to obtain several variances needed; a hearing will probably take place sometime in May.

ZC Approves F Street Dorm

The D.C. Zoning Commission has approved the plans of George Washington University for a 379-bed dormitory at 2025 F Street, N.W. Scaled down from GWU's original proposal, the ANC and the FBA nevertheless felt the additional students to be

housed on that block as overwhelming to that area. In addition, the plans call for retail space on the ground floor of the building, and a food service operation in the Quigley's Pharmacy building at 21st & G Streets. The Commission members also insisted on improved and more specific language concerning the retail space to assure the university's compliance with its commitment.

FBA Charges GW Exceeds Enrollment Cap

In early March the FBA filed a letter with the Zoning Commission relating to the F Street dorm which asserts that GW has enrolled more than the mandated enrollment cap of 20,000 students. Ron Cocome asked that before "any other university projects are approved and any more Foggy Bottom/West End property is converted . . . to university use, an independent audit process . . . needs to be established." He added that "statistics on the total

student population . . . living off-campus in Foggy Bottom/West End" would be helpful and offered the Association's help in that endeavor.

FBA Nominating Committee Named

FBA President Ron Cocome has named the members of the FBA's Nominating Committee for the 2004 elections. The chair is Richard Price; the other members are Janet Farbstein, Rose Garguillio, Marilyn Rubin, and Herbert Talisman. Elections for the Executive Board will take place at the FBA meeting on June 28.

Watermelons

By Charles Simic

Green Buddas
On the fruit stand.
We eat the smile
And spit out the teeth.

(Reprinted—with a smile—
from *Tameme*, a Spanish-
English journal of new writing
from North America
edited by Foggy Bottom resident C.M. Mayo)

April 2004

Volume 46, No. 6

FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

The Foggy Bottom News is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. Its 5,500 copies are distributed to residences and businesses in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods. The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the editor and writers. Their appearance here constitutes neither an endorsement nor official policy of the Foggy Bottom Association.

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Letters

GW Alum/Editor Weighs In

In reading the March edition of the Foggy Bottom News, I was struck by two articles. The first: the excerpts from Thomas Bower's letter to GW President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and Trachtenberg's response. The second: the editor's comments in Becker Beat.

First off, a little background on me. I was the GW Hatchet's editorial pages editor from 1997-1999. Although I graduated almost five years ago, I continue to live and work in Foggy Bottom. So I feel as if I have some useful comments to make regarding the topics in both the above-mentioned articles.

In Bower's letter to Trachtenberg, he says he sold his house in order to finally be able to enjoy a full night's sleep away from student neighbors. I sympathize with him. As a former student living in the midst of current stu-

dents, I share his frustration with the lack of neighborliness on the part of some of the student/residents. He also correctly points out that some of the townhouses with student renters are poorly maintained and look like dorms. But he goes on to argue that the University should be the one to teach its students how to be proper neighbors.

We Should Hold Owners Accountable

I disagree. Instead of asking the University to instill neighborly values (and simple common sense) among its students living in Foggy Bottom, I would cast the spotlight in a different direction. I would ask the owners of the rented-out houses why they care so little about the neighborhood that they do not inspect their property to see its condition.

It is the property owners who bear some of the blame for the shoddiness of their tenants' residences. Instead of caring about the state of the neighborhood, those owners care only about the very sizable rent checks arriving in their mailboxes on time. So while I think

the University is very mistaken in admitting ever-increasing numbers of students each year, I think the burden on maintaining townhouse properties lies not with Trachtenberg, but with the absentee landlords interested solely with their profits. Perhaps contacting the landlords and complaining to them about the state of their property would have a more immediate effect than sending letters to Trachtenberg. Perhaps letting landlords know that their properties are being maintained in a way that is a blight on the neighborhood would be more effective than waiting for the University to teach its students how to be good neighbors.

In Becker's column, she congratulated my old newspaper on its centennial (with which I heartily join in). She also focuses on something I think is little-noticed in town-gown relations: the fact that residents and students have more in common than they realize when it comes to dealing with the University. Residents complain about the increasing numbers of students who are moving off campus and "dis-

placing" long-time residents (although, to be fair, there is no similar complaint when the displaced sell their property and make a very handsome profit). Students complain about over-crowded classrooms, insufficient increases in facilities and teaching staff, and ever-rising tuition rates.

Ire Result of GWU's Vast Growth

The main source of both residents' and students' ire is the vast growth the University has undergone in a very short amount of time and with apparently little thought to the full ramifications of that expansion. There seems to be a missed opportunity for residents and students to band together and fight University over-expansion on a united front: residents want a University not always looking to expand its campus boundaries; students want a University not seeking to pack as many student as possible into classrooms and facilities. If both sides were able to put aside their hostilities for one another and look at their common interest, then a more effective and mutually-beneficial front could be presented.

Helder Gil, GW Class of '99
Claridge House resident

"Condescending and Insulting"

In your March 2004 issue, I read with disgust the excerpt from Steven Joel Trachtenberg's letter to former resident Tom Bower's decent letter to him. What a condescending and insulting response from a university president! But those who have received letters from the bane of Foggy Bottom are not surprised. I am one as well who received several of his signature write-offs. One day, we must publish them in toto to add to Foggy Bottom memorabilia. Our followers must know about the tremendously negative effect this creature has had on our community. Let us not be disappointed as we see more of his missives. The more he puts foot in mouth, the more he'll confirm what he really is (adjectives discretionary).

Mel Maeda, I Street

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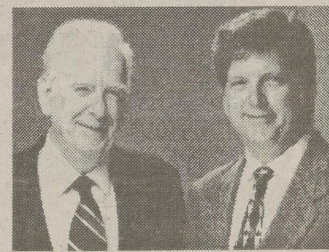
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Foggy Bottom Blues

A young writer moves to Washington, D.C., to begin a career and a new, grown-up life away from home.

By Christopher Buckley

When I was 29 years old, I went to work at the White House. Because the job entailed physical proximity to the vice president of the United States, the FBI expressed interest in my background. As part of this six-month "SPIN" (Special Investigation), I found myself filling out a form requiring me to list every address at which I had lived over the preceding 29 years. I phoned the FBI agent assigned to my case and said to him, "You're kidding, right?" He replied with the impeccable taciturnity of his ilk: "No."

I could count some 15 or so addresses that I had called home, including a pair of tramp steamers and a college secret society. To impress the FBI with my patriotism and lack of desire to assassinate

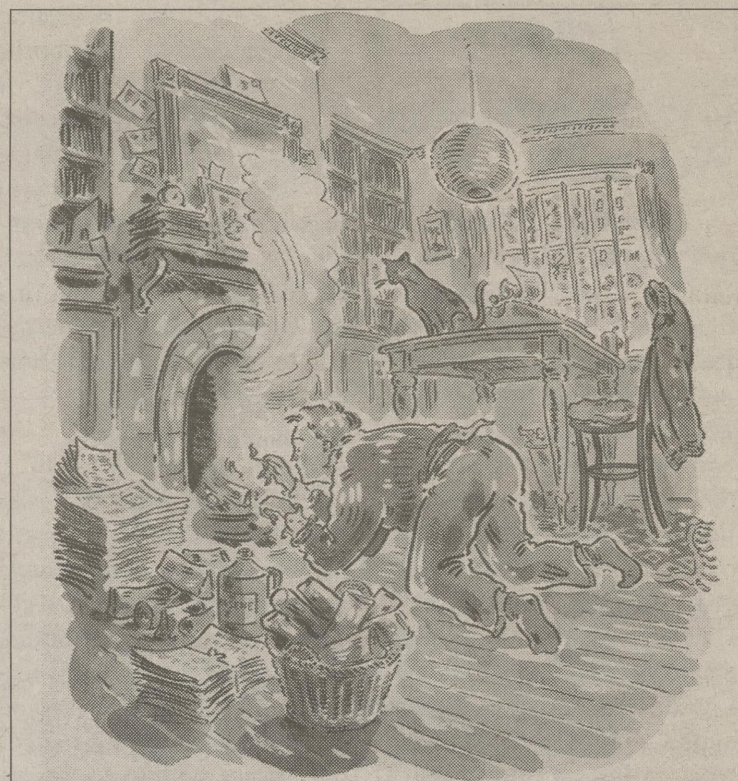
the vice president, I asterisked the list and provided further details on a separate sheet. ("Ports visited on Freighter Fernbrook: 24, mostly Far East; list on request.") I explained that no one associated with the secret society would speak to the FBI, but said that this should not necessarily alarm them. I was at this point a bit punchy and hoped that this footnote would cause them to dispatch their top investigators to the scene, along with a couple of bloodhounds.

The narrow three-story townhouse in which I filled out this interminable form was my first home in Washington, D.C. I am now on my fourth. I live there happily with my wife and two children and faithful hounds. I plan to be buried there, or

least to have my ashes used to fertilize the roses. But I often think back on the first place. It was where my adult life began. It was the last place where I was young and single and had not yet signed up for 30 years' servitude to the mortgage bank.

I arrived in Washington one hot summer night, having driven down from New York City with all my earthly possessions inside my Volkswagen Rabbit convertible. There was a telegram stuck in the door. Remember those white strips of teletype pasted onto yellow forms, how eventful they seemed, and so often were? It was from my father. It said: THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY IS AS PROUD OF YOU AS YOUR OWN. And with that lovely paternal benison I crossed over the threshold into a new life.

And into my first Washington July. The neighborhood, Foggy Bottom, is well-named; it used to be a swamp. What time I spent at home that first summer was in my boxer shorts. *Not* a pretty sight.



It was a sublet at first, from peripatetic friends in the diplomatic corps. I inherited temporary possession of a malevolent blue Persian cat named Chinchon, who despised me at first sight. Each morning she would leave mementos eloquent of her contempt in my shoes. Returning in the evening, exhausted

from another 16-hour day at the White House, I became a version of Peter Sellers' Inspector Clouseau, tiptoeing into each room in anticipation of sabotage. It crossed my mind to arrange to have Chinchon accidentally "escape." Finally, our three-month sen-

continued next page

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from previous page

tence of cohabitation mercifully came to an end. Her parting billet-doux was a blue hairball inside my typewriter.

There was a little patio out back, perhaps 15 feet by 10 feet. I fecklessly attempted to kibbutzify with plantings but the only thing that would grow was mint, which I determined would probably grow in soil irradiated by atomic bombs.

I loved my little patio garden. It was my own Eden, even with the overhead roar of planes taking off from and landing at National Airport. I would take the typewriter out and set it on the heavy Mexican tiled table and bang away at my first novel. First Washington house, first novel. Everything was so new. In those days I still smoked cigarettes and remember the smoke swirling upward. One night I woke up in my bedroom, unable to breathe from bronchitis, and dragged myself at four a.m. the three blocks to the George Washington University Hospital emergency room. It had been made famous several years before as the site where doctors had saved Ronald Reagan from the assassin's bullet.

The house had a fireplace, and I had romantic notions of writing by firelight. I moved my desk down to the ground floor, positioning myself between hearth and the patio. It was heavenly, cozy. All I needed was firewood, which I had never before bought. Up until then, firewood was something that had always somehow managed to materialize on its own.

That first October there came a knock on my door. "Y'all need any far-wood?" Thus began my initiation, which 20 years later is still ongoing, into the vicissitudes of purchasing firewood. Here is what I have learned over two decades: there is no such thing as "dry firewood," no matter how long it is avouched to have been "cured."

My learning curve was steep. My first batch of "dry" firewood sent billows of steam up the chimney. Bubbles formed at the ends of logs. I burned enough back issues of the Washington Post and New York Times to consume Joan of Arc at the stake. At a hardware store, I made the delighted discovery of a device consisting of a cast-iron dish with a porous brick

inside. You saturated the brick with kerosene, which provided a twenty-minute kindling flame. Kerosene is not an especially pleasant bouquet, but it did remind me of my year aboard freighters. At any rate I was determined to write my great American novel by the fire.

The first time I tried my new device, the reservoir of kerosene burned itself out, leaving the "dry" firewood blackened with soot, the log-ends sullenly hissing and foaming. With tongs I extracted the red-hot iron dish from beneath the andirons and poured fresh kerosene onto the brick. This was ill-advised.

The explosion sent me reeling backward and cinematically blacked my face. For a month at the White House people would ask, "What happened to your eyebrows?" When I think that the manuscript of my novel could have been immolated, I tremble for American literature....

That was 19 years ago now. A few months ago, I found myself walking along 23rd Street in the direction of the Lincoln Memorial. There were construction vehicles. I heard the harsh sound of pile-

Fifteen FB/WE Homes Sold in January & February

During the first two months of the year, 15 home sales in the FB/WE area were recorded. The list of these sales, by various agents, was compiled and supplied by realtor Caroline Coates (333-0017).

Address	Bldg.	Bed/Bath	Sale Price	Date
940 25th	Claridge House, 1st fl.	1/1	133,900	1/12
700 New Hamp.	Watergate South, 10th fl.	1/1	287,000	1/15
2700 Virginia	Watergate West, 6th fl.	1/1.5	287,500	1/15
2475 Virginia	Potomac Plaza, 2d fl.	1/1	230,000	1/18
522 21st	Monroe House, 6th fl.	0/1	171,500	1/23
2401H	Bonwit Plaza, 6th fl.	1/1	268,000	1/30
2475 Virginia	Potomac Plaza, 4th fl.	1/1	236,000	2/2
2475 Virginia	Potomac Plaza, 8th fl.	0/1	166,000	2/2
2700 Virginia	Watergate West, 7th fl.	1/1	295,000	2/2
950 25th	Claridge House, 7th fl.	1/1	204,000	2/6
922 24th	Jefferson House, 5th fl.	0/1	140,000	2/10
700 New Hamp.	Watergate South, 3rd fl.	2/2	475,000	2/10
2500 Virginia	Watergate East, 9th fl.-S	1/1	260,000	2/12
2030 F	Letterman House, 10th fl.	0/1	211,000	2/16
922 24th	Jefferson House, 2d fl.	0/1	165,000	2/26

driving. My nostrils caught the tang of wet cement. I stood on the sidewalk in front of what had once been Number 608. The wrecker's ball had been and gone. The space before me was empty, as if someone had hit a giant "Delete" button. All gone. I could see in the distance the Watergate.

I stood amidst the noise of building and tried to reconstruct it in my mind: where my bedroom had been, where the fireplace was, the refrigerator full of my bachelor's fare

of frozen dinners. Now, a high steel beam, the spine of some future George Washington University dormitory or office, was embedded in the earth where the patio had been. I comforted myself with the certain knowledge that the mint had surely survived.

Christopher Buckley's most recent book is Washington Schlepped Here (Crown Journeys, 2003).

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I Started Not To

By Cleo P. Long

When I woke up this morning
I started not to smile.
From frowns come wrinkles,
Is it worth the while?

I met an unfriendly neighbor,
and
I started not to speak.
Then I thought about it
Even the sparrow opens
its beak.

I started to walk past a man,
Who had fallen in the
street
But instead of that
I helped him to his feet.

Then I got on my knees and
Began to pray and pray,
"Thank you, dear Lord,
for letting me do the
things
I started not to do today."

Cleo Long is a resident of St. Mary's Court.

The Foggy Bottom Diner

By James Patterson

Thai Coast

Thai Coast, Foggy Bottom's new Thai restaurant, had its Grand Opening the evening of February 23. The event was a blast! A capacity crowd enjoyed free hors d'oeuvres and wine.

Thai Coast is located at 2514 L Street, the former location of Donatello's. It is conveniently located for residents of Foggy Bottom, West End and Georgetown.

The menu is an assortment of exotic Thai dishes. I tried the appetizer called The Sampler, which is a combination of delicacies such as Chicken Satay, Curry Puff, Crispy Spring Roll, Shrimp

Roll, and Steamed Dumpling. This is a dish I recommend. There are 12 other items on the appetizer menu.

Diners may also enjoy traditional Thai salads; soups, including popular lemon grass soup; nine poultry dishes; seven beef/pork dishes; three curry dishes; ten seafood dishes; eight noodle and fried rice dishes; or ten vegetarian dishes. In sum, there is a dish for every discriminating taster.

Some people shy away from Thai food thinking all the dishes are hot and spicy. NOT TRUE! Some dishes are hot and spicy; most dishes are not spicy. Thai Coast's menu clearly labels the dishes that are spicy, so you can avoid them if you choose. I predict That Coast is going to be a great success!

For diners wanting cocktails or wine, a full bar service is available. Thai Coast has everything you'll need for enjoyable dining. For reservations call 202-333-2460. Be sure to tell them you learned of them from Jim—The Foggy Bottom Diner.

Jim Patterson is a local writer and critic.

Looking Back

By Ellie Becker

I recently was going through old Foggy Bottom News issues, and was overwhelmed by nostalgia for the "old days," way back in the 1960s and 1970s. (I moved to Foggy Bottom in 1963—what a different world it was.)

Merchants/Friends

Foggy Bottom Gifts, right on the Circle between 23rd & New Hampshire. It was not possible to leave that store without the perfect gift you were seeking. (1)

Mellonas's Restaurant in the 2500 block of L Street—a warm, neighborhood, home-cooked food restaurant if there every was one. Just to the east were a shoe repair shop and **Frank's Barber Shop**. (2)

Moonstone Bookceller, on Penn near 22nd Street, along with the wonderful and sorely missed **Le Gaulois** restaurant. (3)

Washington Circle Drug and the former **Federal Supermarket** on Penn. Bob Sinker, and the Kaufman/Dobbs family, were truly neighborhood-serving retailers! (4)

Guess What's There Now!

(1) The new GW Hospital.
(2) Mellonas's and Frank's were followed by Donatello's, now Thai Coast, and the Washington Suites hotel.

(3) Thanks to the Pedas family, we now have that huge IFC building. Also thanks to the Pedas family, we are missing one of the most famous historic buildings in the city which once stood on Penn near 21st—and I don't mean the theater.

(4) The two neighborhood "gems" were on the first floor of the building now housing the Melrose Hotel which formerly was an apartment house.

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GOOD FRIDAY, April 9	6:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion with Holy Communion; 12:10 & 3:00 pm Stations of the Cross
HOLY SATURDAY, April 10	8:00 pm Easter Vigil with Washington Symphonic Brass Ensemble; Confessions 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm
EASTER SUNDAY, April 11	9:00 am and 11:00 am Masses with Washington Symphonic Brass Ensemble; 1:00 pm Mass with el Shaddai Choir; No evening Masses on Easter Sunday

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9:30 a.m. **Worship Service** (in German, 4/4, & 21)
11:00 a.m. **Worship Service** (in English)

Holy Week Services:

Maundy Thurs. (Apr. 8) 7:00 pm
Good Friday (Apr. 9) 12:00 noon (in German)
1:00 pm (in English)
Easter Sunday (Apr. 11) 9:30 am (in German)
11:00 am (in English)

Critic's Corner



By Bob Anthony

"Yellowman" at the Arena

The Arena Stage has opened Dael Orlandersmith's "Yellowman" with two of the most exciting actors to grace the stage this season. Laiona Michelle and Howard W. Overshown give outstanding interpretations of two blacks from childhood playmates to marrying adults. It is superbly directed by Tazewell Thompson who deftly handles the many transitions in the storyline. There is tragic foreshadowing throughout but the climax still comes as a chilling shocker. The story confirms that the young "got to be taught" to hate and/or to love based on ethnic, racial and social injustices. This is a universal theme that whole families would enjoy as a group experience, and it certainly is highly recommended for school group outings. Ms. Michelle and Mr. Overshown are totally relaxed stage players and hold the affection of the audience from playful youths to adult romantics. A simple set of a scrim with back screen projections nicely fits the simplicity of this comic tragedy. And Robert Wierzel's lighting is always right on the emotional buttons. This is one play theater goers should not miss this season. (To 4/18)

Neighborhood Datebook

Sunday, March 28: Concert by the **National Men's Chorus**, directed by multi-talented musician Thomas Beveridge, called the "dean of Washington composers." A featured presentation will be Field Mass by Bohuslav Martinu, a work meant to be performed by military musicians. Also on the program will be Mozart's Masonic Cantata "Dir, Seele des Weltalls," Gustav Holst's "Dirge for Two Veterans," and Beveridge's "Soprano Rhapsody." Info: 244-7191. \$15. Western Presbyterian Church, 2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W. 4:00 p.m.

Monday, March 29: Opening lesson for Introduction to **Latin Dance** (see April 5). Millennium Stage, Kennedy Center, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 29: Foggy Bottom Association meeting, with City Administrator **Robert C. Bobb** as featured speaker. Melrose Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. All residents welcome. 7:30 p.m.*

Wednesday-Sunday, March 29-April 4: "How I Learned to Drive" by Paula Vogel, a "funny, surprising and devastating tale of survival as seen through a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man." GW Department of Theatre & Dance. Tickets: 432-7328. Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 30: **Gregory Orr, poet/essayist** and winner of the YM-YWHA Poetry Center Discovery Award, will read from his work. Marvin Center, Room 307, 800 21st Street, N.W. Info: 994-6180. 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 1: "Presenting Miriam Schapiro: **Artist Talks about Quilts**," discussing her point of view about quilts and insights into the role of anonymous quilt-making women of the past. Using rich slides, she will also discuss the innovations of contemporary quilt-making women. Corcoran Gallery of Art, \$18; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.**

Friday, April 2: Reception and opening of exhibition of new paintings by local artist **Helen Zughuib**, entitled "Stories My Father Told Me," about his life growing up in Syria and Lebanon. Info: 338-1325. The Jerusalem Fund, 2425 Virginia Avenue, N.W. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Exhibition continues through Friday, April 30. Hours: Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Monday, April 5, 12 & 19: Introduction to **Latin Dance**, presenting lessons in salsa, merengue, cumbia, and tango with Latin ballroom dance champions "Gonzalo" and Dalene Erickson. Individuals or couples are welcome. \$36; subscribers/members \$33. Kennedy Center. 6:00-7:30 p.m.#

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	Sunday	12:00 noon-7:00 pm

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Thursday, April 8: House & Garden editor-in-chief **Dominique Browning** will discuss her latest book, *Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener*, with advice and anecdotes. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$18. 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 8: "America Dancing" Post-Performance Discussion Series, following the **Lyon Opera Ballet**. The program provides an informal setting to exchange ideas and deepen understanding of modern dance. Kennedy Center. #

Saturday, April 17: A Master Class with **Marvin Hamlish**, NSO Principal Pops Conductor, leading a class of six professional musicians. \$15; subscribers/members \$12. Kennedy Center, 2:00-3:30 p.m. #

Wednesday, April 21: "**Tennessee Williams—His Life and Work**," exploring the "life, loves, and craft" of the American playwright. \$10; subscribers/members \$8. Kennedy Center. 6:00-7:00 p.m. #

Wednesday, April 21: Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2-A meeting. Tentative location: State Plaza Hotel, 2116 F Street, N.W. Info: 736-1775. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday-Saturday, April 21-24: "**Danceworks**," featuring choreography by guest artists, students and faculty. GW Department of Theatre & Dance. Tickets: 432-7328. Marvin Theatre, 800 21st Street, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, April 22: "**Ralph Rucci: Personality and Style**," New York fashion designer, will present a slide-filled talk about his career since his first collection showing in 1981. Corcoran Gallery of Art. \$20; members \$15. 7:00 p.m.**

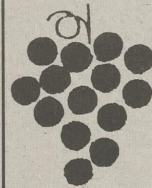
Saturday, April 24: 26th Street Park cleanup. Info: 337-3137. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

*See article elsewhere in this issue.

**500 17th Street, N.W. Info: 639-1770.

#Part of Performance Plus program of Kennedy Center's Education Department. Info and/or tickets: 416-4600.

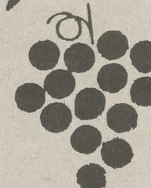
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Foggy Bottom Folks

Foggy Bottom composer **Roz Freund's** cabaret music CD, "Flying Colors," has just garnered a second \$1,000 grant from the D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities. "The grant is for PR and a website," says Ms. Freund. "The Commission believes my music is special and wants D.C. and the world to know. Oh, that's nice!"

Bob Vogt, FBA treasurer and aficionado and "foreman" for the 26th Street Park, is happily at home again after surgery to give him two new knees. His friends do not envy his recuperation routine, but now welcome seeing him walk jauntily again and without pain. And Norene tells us that "His Gimpiness" was actually a pretty good patient and he claims he's making better-than-expected progress. Right on!

The new restaurant on L Street, **Thai Coast**, is owned by **Ms. Valla Kertgate**, and the manager is **Mr. Biggky**. They decided to start off on the right foot, as far as the

FBA is concerned, by advertising in the News and offering a 10% discount on food checks to FBA members. The neighborhood's reviewer, **Jim Patterson**, seemed to like the spot as well.

Longtime residents will remember the late **Betty Olsen**, wonderful neighbor and FBNews columnist and ad manager, and **Kirsten**, her daughter, who went south and joined the Florida State government headed by a governor with a somewhat familiar name, Jeb Bush. Kirsten keeps in touch, maintains her FB membership, and has remained interested in animals, as was her mother; active in Republican politics; and she held office in her homeowners' association (she lives next door to a golf course). In addition to celebrating a significant birthday, she has become engaged to a Tallahassee police officer "with a fabulous sense of humor," with wedding plans for late 2004. Can't think of a luckier guy!

FBA President **Ron Cocome** was among those who signed the condolences



book, on his own behalf and that of the Foggy Bottom Association, at the Spanish Embassy at 24th and Pennsylvania. He joined a long line of D.C. residents and others expressing their sorrow for the tragic bombing in Madrid.

Mel Maeda and **Darrell Rumsey** of I Street are new fans of the traditional Cunard Lines transatlantic crossings. They first crossed on the Queen Elizabeth 2 from Southampton, England, to New York City in August 2003. They were so impressed with the experience that they repeated the cross-

ing in December after attending a wedding in Edinburgh—kilts and all. They are also booked for the April 2004 inaugural crossing on the new Queen Mary 2, the largest cruise ship ever built. That will be a "one to remember" for Mel because the QM2 will arrive in NYC the day after his birthday. They are excited about being a part of the fanfare of the ship's first arrival in the United States.

Mel and Darrell are longstanding judges for the Miss America Scholarship Program, beginning in Hawaii in

1985. They volunteer their time to support this program which is the largest source of scholarships for young women. Together, they have judged numerous preliminary Miss America local and state pageants from Hawaii to Maine. Mel is judging the Miss Roanoke Valley Pageant in March, and Darrell the Miss Commonwealth of Virginia Pageant in April.

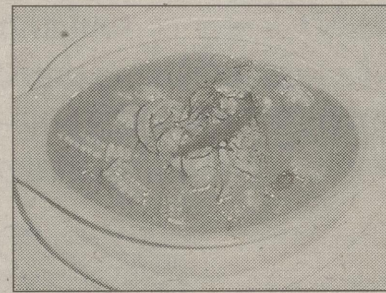
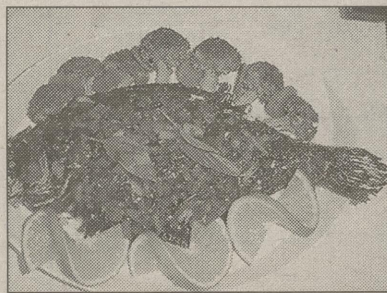
D.C. is losing to retirement a special public servant when **Leslie Hotaling** leaves her post as Director of the Department of Public Works. Among her responsibilities were trash collection, street sweeping and snow removal. Many in Foggy Bottom benefitted from the improvements she made, evidenced by the prompt snow removal this past winter and unusually efficient trash collection. Mayor Williams cited her "enthusiasm, competence, energy and sense of humor." Another rare quality she showed in community meetings was refreshing candor and lack of lame excuses. She will be missed!

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